

# **Boko Haram Phenomenon: Issues and Challenges towards Sustainable National Development in Nigeria 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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## **Abstract**

The paper is purport to explore the Boko Haram phenomenon, issues and challenges towards sustainable national development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Boko Haram introduced a terrorist dimension into the crime space of Nigeria through its trademarks of wanton destruction of lives and property. There was the manifestation of reckless abandonment through bombings, abduction and slaughtering of human beings like rams more prominently in North-eastern area of Nigeria. The scourge of the phenomenon has posted a lot of challenges through creation of palpable fear and sense of insecurity in the polity of Nigeria. It in addition has serious corrosive challenges on the life of heterogeneous Nigerian societies leading to psychological trauma, destructions of public, private properties and displacement of people. It as well led to pervasive corruption, poverty ridden, discouragement of both foreign and domestic investors, and redirection of the nation's resources toward conflict management and resolution. It is an incontrovertible fact that the development of any country in the world depends on many factors, which may fast-track or retards its growth, among which security is central. This is because security of lives and property plays the fundamental fulcrum in the development of any country, as investors in any economy may want to be assured of the safety of their investments. The paper adopted the multidisciplinary approach (journal article, newspapers, etc) to the studies of Boko Haram and its challenges towards sustainable national development in Nigeria 21<sup>st</sup> century. The paper recommended government proactive action to terminate the insurgency as to mitigate youths' unemployment to the barest minimum as to forestall further easy recruitment into terrorist and other criminal gangs. To build formidable security agencies through effective motivation, mobilisation and improve standard of living in order to sustain national development. And finally, there should be continuity and consistence in decision making among stakeholders as to curb down the menace of insurgency in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Boko Haram, Issues, Challenges, Sustainable National Development.

## Introduction

Since the emergence of democratic polity in 1999, Nigerians have been faced with a lot of problems emanating from certain group (Boko Haram) indicating radical disinterest to democracy. It calls for replacement by or with Islamic theocratic state, this generated lot of controversies leading to disorderliness, confusion, tension culminating into threat to national development. This is because religion according to Odiri religio has grown to become a veritable and divisive instrument in the politics of Nigeria and has become in northern Nigeria where Islam has been a unifying factor among more monolithic North.<sup>1</sup> The Boko Haram phenomenon has constitute a serious threat to national development as it use religion ironically as a major instrument for the ruling elite to manipulate politics in Nigeria. It is discernible to note that Boko Haram is not the first Muslim movement in the region which advocated the jihad (in the sense of an armed struggle) as a strategy to implement its programme. The movement of jihad started by Usmanu Danfodiyo in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century led to the removal of the Habe rulers<sup>2</sup> in Hausaland and to the establishment of the rule of Muslim religious scholars who consequently strove to legitimate their rule through theological argumentation.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the creation of ideological dichotomies arisen from dispute among the Yan Izala (*Jama'at Izalat al-bid'a wa-iqamat al-sunna*) was as a result of social, political and generational dynamics within the larger field of northern Nigeria radical Islam.<sup>4</sup> This development forged the Boko Haram to perceive that Muslims in Nigeria do not conform a homogenous block, but are divided into numerous larger and smaller movements and group that mirror social, political and religious orientations and divisions.

It is against the foregoing backdrop that Nigeria has been battling helplessly with insurgency perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group predominantly in the North Eastern part of Nigeria in states like Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. They have in the last half a decade or so, become the most dangerous insurgent group that Nigerians have witnessed.<sup>5</sup> Their central philosophy is Boko Haram better known in Hausa parlance, meaning- "Western

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1 O. C Odiri (2012), "Ethno-Religious Conflict and Its Implications for Constitutional Democracy in Nigeria: The Threat of the Boko Haram Sect," in *Sokoto Journal of the Social Science*, Volume. 2, No. 3, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, ISSN: 1595-2738, p. 14.

2 M. Last (2009), *The Pattern of Dissent: Boko Haram in Nigeria, 2009*, in *Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, Volume, 10, pp. 7-11. Note that the term Habe is a Fulfulde language used in this context to describe in eighteenth and nineteenth century jihadist terminology referred to the pre-jihadist and allegedly pre-Islamic heathen rulers of Hausaland.

3 R. Loimeter (), *Boko Haram: The Development of a Militant Muslim Movement in Nigeria*,...

4 B. A Ramzi (2011), *The Izala Movement in Nigeria: Its Split, Relationship to Sufis and Perception of Sharia Re-Implementation*, Ph.D. Thesis, Bayreuth University.

5 T. Decker (2016), *Matrix of Inherited: A Historical Exploration of the Underdog Phenomenon in Nigeria's Relationship Strategies, 1960-2011*, University Press Plc, Ibadan, pp. 49-50.

education is forbidden.” They are known to devastatingly attack churches, mosques, schools, police stations and government, private and public owned facilities with a kind of guerrilla warfare tactics.<sup>6</sup> The hazardous undertakings of Boko Haram insurgency have generated a colossal upsurge of displacement people in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. Internally displaced person’s plight is more worrying and hazardous in Nigeria. As observe over the years, the growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria is becoming alarming.<sup>7</sup> Besides, the Boko Haram phenomenon in altercation in Nigeria created a dichotomy between Islam and western civilization or ideology. Their concept of Islam does recognize dichotomy between the institution of religion and acquisition of western knowledge. It essential to acknowledge that acquisition of knowledge is so important that the first five verses to be revealed focus mainly on education. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in several sayings encouraged Muslims to pursue knowledge.

Consequently, the wanton destruction by Boko Haram have remain endemic by putting human beings into a total disarray as well as undermining the socio-economic, political and economic development in Nigeria. It in addition resulted into displacement of people, injuries, mimes and the redirection of the nation limited resources for conflict management.<sup>8</sup> It should be noted that the dangerous trend in insecurity came with the emergence of Boko Haram, the Muslim fundamentalist sect, bombing and attacking everything within reach. According to reports, multiple explosions went off one after the other in places like Kano, in the usual manner of attacks by the members of Boko Haram sect in Maiduguri, Damaturu, Potiskum, Gombe, Abuja and Madalla in Niger State.<sup>9</sup> In August 26, 2011, the suicide bombing of the Boko Haram attacked the United Nations Secretariat in Abuja, with a similar attack on the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters on June 16.<sup>10</sup> Boko Haram otherwise called “Western education is sin,” claimed responsibilities for these and other series of bomb blasts and attacks. It is in this connection that this paper examined Boko Haram phenomenon, issues and challenges in national development.

### **Conceptual Discourse: Boko Haram and National Development**

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6 B. J Adele (2013), “The Boko Haram Crisis and Nigeria’s External Relations,” in *British Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, Volume. 11, No. 2, pp. 126-139.

7 The Number of Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria is Growing quickly, [www.venturesafrica.com/the-number-of-internally-displaced-persons-idps-in-nigeria-is-growing-quickly/](http://www.venturesafrica.com/the-number-of-internally-displaced-persons-idps-in-nigeria-is-growing-quickly/) last assessed 1st March 2016.

8 Nnoli O. (2003), “Communal Conflict and Population Displacement: An Introductory Note,” in Nnoli O. (ed), *Communal Conflict and Population Displacement in Nigeria*, Enugu: Pan-African Centre for Research.

9 Okpanga A., Ugwu, S.C. and Eme, O.I. (2012), “Activities of Boko Haram and Insecurity Question in Nigeria,” in *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, Vol. 1, No. 9, April.

10 *Ibid*...

The term Boko Haram is a derivation of Hausa word, “Boko” mean-Animist western or otherwise non-Islamic education, while “Haram” is a word with Arabic origin that figuratively means-sin but literally, forbidden’. In other words, “Boko Haram” means- western education is forbidden or is a sin.<sup>11</sup> Boko Haram is very controversial Nigeria militant Islamic group that seeks for the imposition of sharia law in the entire northern states of Nigeria. The name officially of the group is *Jama’atu Alis-sunna Lidda’awth wal jihad*, which in Arabic translated to people committed to the propagation of the teaching of prophet and jihad literally therefore, the group means- Association of *Shunnis* for the propagation of Islam and for Holy war. The Boko Haram official name is *Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal Jihad*, meaning “people committed to the propagation of the Prophet’s Teachings and Jihad.<sup>12</sup> According to these writers, the group earned its nickname from the teachings of its founder, Mohammed Yusuf in the early 2000s, in the restive north eastern city of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. In his own argument, Yusuf believed that western education (Boko) was forbidden (Haram) in the region because of the fact that education had brought nothing good to the people but poverty and misery. He succeeded in brain-washing his already disenchanted and disgruntled adherents that western education was the cause of their plight.

Development is associated with modernization, material advancement, industrialization scientific and technological progress, the emergence of nuclear energy, electronic and biological revolution, new knowledge about man and the universe. It means urbanization, socio-cultural transformation, mass literacy, vertical and horizontal mobility, employment opportunities and the emergence of specialized and independent occupational roles.<sup>13</sup> A nation is a large community of people sharing common language, common culture, common history and having a common constitution and government. Nigeria is a nation and the national share common characteristics of a nation such as binding principles and policies.

The ultimate aim of national development must be to bring about sustained improvement in the well-being of the individual and bestow benefits to all self-reliance and mobilization of domestic resources, the transformation of the structure of rural production, the development of small-scale industries and the acquisition of technological and scientific skills. These objectives are stale, but well-conceived, planned and directed policies and

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11 A. Abimbola (2010), “Boko Haram Uprising and Islamic Revolution in Nigeria,” in *African Spectrum*, Volume. 45, No. 2, pp. 95-108.

12 *Op.cit...* Okpanga A., Ugwu, S.C. and Eme, O.I. (2012), “Activities of Boko Haram and Insecurity Question in Nigeria,”...

13 Umuru, G. E. (2002). Re-Focusing Science Technology and Mathematics Education for Rapid National Development Refocusing Education in Nigeria A Book of Readings. 8(75).

programmes are required for their realization<sup>14</sup>. This means that developments is about self-reliance in every aspect of national life. As soon as the individual are made to acquire specialized skills that will enable them to help develop the society, then the society becomes developed. This accounts for the difference between the developed countries and the underdeveloped nations. According to Alabi<sup>15</sup> the major factor responsible for the wide gap in the level of development between the so called developed and the developing nations is the level of development of pure and applied science in these nations

### **Theoretical Issues and Paradigms**

In understanding the theoretical paradigms culminating in Boko Haram phenomenon, myriads of theories has advanced. Their synergy better explain why the conflict persist for so long through the profession and adoption of Islam as a base on which they consistently strike. The application of the theories have helped to construe the veracity of the prolong strikes since 2000, fundamentally in the conflict prone areas of north-eastern Nigeria. Although, the postulations are multi-dimensional nature, but provides sound basis for argument, interpreting ideas and sound prepositions for the emergency of Boko haram conflict.

Fundamental is the biological theory of conflict, it is made up of various theoretical paradigms either from the fields of psychology, sociology, or political theory. Quintessential to the analysis of the theories is the view that mankind is by “nature evil” and man’s reaction to unfavourable situations is always expressed through violent or conflict. Human beings according to this theory are masters of conflict rather than servants’ because they have in-built destructive impulses that prompt them to be violent, they are thus insulated by hatred. These include classical theorists like Thomas Hobbes,<sup>16</sup> St. Augustine, Thomas Malthus, and Sigmund Freud<sup>17</sup>, identified the inherent tendency of man to be selfish, sinful, and driven by the natural quest for the ceaseless pursuit of power. In this connection conflict ensue in expression of people’s fundamental human rights as the case of multi-religious society like Nigeria. Also relatable to Boko Haram insurgency is the postulation by Ted Robert Gurr,<sup>18</sup> this arise from frustration and aggression phenomenon. He emphasised that conflict are

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14 Umaru, H. (1988). Science, Technology and Mathematics Education and Economic Development Okpara E. N. (ed). Education and National Stability. A Book of Reading by APQEN.

15 Alabi, A. O. (1998): Managing Resources for Effective Technological Manpower Training in Pure and Applied Science. Proceedings of NBTE 1s1 National Seminar, 12th August, 1998.

16 T Hobbes (1930), *Selection of F. J. E Woodbridge*, Ed, New York; Scriber.

17 F. Sigmund (1964), Reprinted in J. Strachey, Edited and Translated; *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud*, London; Hogarth.

18 T. R Gurr (ed) (1980), *Handbook or political conflict: Theory and Research*, free press, new York, pp.138-139. See also J.P Scott (1975), *Aggression*, Chicago: university of Chicago press.

inevitable and inseparable arising from direct response of accumulated frustration and anger particularly in societies where scarce resources hardly satisfy human wants.<sup>19</sup>

The physiological postulation perceives Boko Haram conflict to natural process of human action arising from change and transformation. It expatiates some certain stimulants' in man, within and outside his control that make him express aggression that leads to strike: they include 'necessity' 'success' 'stress' or 'threat.' Human brain reacts to these factors to manifest some inherent tendency to conflict between what he felt and what he thought. In this situation, when people are under stress and under certain conditions, their reaction can conform or differ from what others expect<sup>20</sup> which may ultimately lead to altercation.

Also pertinent is the economic theory, it looks into the causes of conflict as emanating from the interest of perpetrators in terms of material benefit. Some of these ultimate questions are; in whose interest is conflict? Who gains and who loses? These series of questions assume that material interest is the motivating factor and the most important issue at stake in conflict situation like that of the Boko Haram. According to Collier,<sup>21</sup> conflicts are perpetrated and associated with those who benefit from chaos. The perpetrators or initiators are referred as conflict entrepreneurs' who not only steer conflict, but also invest resources and ideologies at their disposal to ensure that conflict lingers on for maximization of material benefits. For instance, countries within and outside Nigeria borders made a lot of funds from the sales of arms and ammunitions, uniforms, foods and others.

However, the economic are made hidden or open, and perpetrated in the guise of ideological, nationalism or political liberation or even religious differences. In Nigeria, the prolonged Boko Haram insurgencies as an ideological conflict were premised on condemnation of western idea and ideologies manifested via plethora preaching and actions<sup>22</sup> on Nigeria polity. As a reactionary movement, the Boko Haram rejects western education as well as institutions, technologies and other forms of recreational entertainment antithetical to Islamic principles and tenets. In a synopsis, they are in addition adverse to the Darwinist theory on the evolution of man and to the big bang theory on the creation of the world, which are not part of what they know as Islam.<sup>23</sup>

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19 *Ibid...*

20 D. O. P. Oyeshola (2009), *Conflict and Context of Conflict Resolution*,

21 J. Dollard *et al* (1939), *Frustration and Aggression*, New Haven, CT, Yale University Press.

22 S. Akhain (2012), "Why Government Fails to End Boko Haram Insurgence," *The Guardian*, Saturday, July 7. See also E. Obumneme (2012), "The Creation of Boko Haram," *Sunday Vanguard*, February 19.

23 A. Medinat (2016), "The Boko Haram Insurgency and Internal Displacement," Being a paper presented at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna at the SEM, 20 June, p. 12.

The Psycho-Cultural theory identifies social distinction among people and religious cultural belief. It specifically perceive cultural as the salient force that creates a social identity and social exclusion that “we” against “them” dichotomy meaning Islam and the West. The theory is a symptom or feeling which nurtures animosity, hatred and contemptuous relationship among peoples of divergent cultures.<sup>24</sup> Judging from the above, the culturally induced conflict is the forging of enemy image (hatred) which is learned from early stage of growth to adulthood and passed on from one generation to another. For example, the Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa among other ethnic groups in Nigeria always perceive themselves as more superior which thereby tend to promote cultural and linguistic proclivity and ethnic chauvinism with other minority groups. The assertion and believes with different forms of identities and reputations in various societies exists among Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo etc. This become the most dangerous identity which best explains domestic violent conflicts rear its head in Boko Haram reprisal killings in some eastern Nigeria States.

Equally germane is the human need theory, it exemplify the basic needs of peoples which must be met in order to have peace and to avoid discord. When this fails, it tend to breed conflict and insecurity. The main assumption of the “human needs perspective” is that all human beings have some needs which they seeks to fulfil and maximize, and any attempt to deny or frustrate one from satisfying his needs invites hatred. These needs include, inter alia, social recognition and sense of belonging as enshrined in the United Nation Universal Declaration of 1948.<sup>25</sup> The deprivation of particular need whether from basic human needs or physiological needs is likely to precipitate insecurity. Again, for instance, the non-payment of workers’ salaries in some States of Nigeria had, and continued to precipitate nauseating statements to the democratic government and the stakeholders involved. The past and recent famous Maitasine and Boko Haram pugnacity in Nigeria are all components to create Islamic theocratic government- a state to be governed by Glorious Qur’an and Hadith.<sup>26</sup> However, the combination of all the theories signifies discontentment arising from needs as well as manifestation of identity. From the foregoing theoretical disposition that issues on predisposing and precipitating factors of Boko Haram conflicts are premised.

### **Issues on Precipitating Factors of the Conflict**

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24 E.O Ojukwu (1989), *Because I am Involved*, Spectrum Publishers, Ibadan.

25 D. P Barash and C. P Webel (2009), *Peace and Conflict Studies*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Sage Publications, Inc, United Kingdom.

26 T. Falola (1985), *The Context: Christianity and Islam and Inter-religious Relations*, University of Ibadan Press.

The fundamental factor leading to Boko Haram insurgency as exemplified by Last<sup>27</sup> is the introduction of western education as symbolized by books (Hausa- *Boko*) of British colonial schools, has seriously challenged the hegemonic position of Islamic education and has consequently been seen as a symbol of the increasing impact of an alien, colonial, Christian, materialist and corrupt process of westernization. This perception of the Boko Haram to western education remain antithesis and not incongruous to the teaching of Islamic practices and tenets. This understanding aggravated the tense situation with hostility created against any western or what Yandaki as term as westoxification or Occidentalism.<sup>28</sup> For instance, through the colonial rule, the establishment of British education, British law and the economic dynamics of the colonial and post-colonial period have indeed led to deep crisis in northern Nigerian Muslims society. This is describe in the word of Loimeter<sup>29</sup> as modernization shock.

In addition, it apt to note that the manipulation of religion emanating from the low literacy level and the influence of global and international phenomenon is one of the factors responsible for Boko Haram insurgency. According to Bala, the real basis of the manipulation of religion in Nigeria today is the need to obscure from the people of Nigeria a fundamental aspect of our reality. This is the domination of Nigeria political economy by a class of intermediaries who are being increasingly exposed.<sup>30</sup> This class inundated themselves with religious and ethnic disguise in order to further entrench dichotomy among Nigeria Islamic groups as to diminish their positive course as well as the unification of Nigeria. Undoubtedly, those who took up the part of extremism sow its seed from manipulating and distorting Islamic religious teachings. It is apposite to construe that once a person is illiterate, his credulity and thought can easily be manipulated. This factor remain ultimate in the precipitation of Boko Haram conflict initiated in Nigeria.

In the opinion of Ramzi, the process of change and fragmentation of religion in northern Nigeria have thus led to violent conflicts, often expressed in religious terms. This also applies to northern Nigerian's largest reform movement, the Yan Izala, established in

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27 M. Last (2009), "The Pattern of Dissent: Boko Haram in Nigeria, 2009," in *Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, Volume. 10, pp.7-11.

28 I. A Yandaki (1995), "Muslims and Contemporary Political Challenges: Looking into the Future through the Past," in *Islam and the Contemporary World Politics*, Islamic Research Centre, Sokoto and Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, pp. 55-60.

29 R. Loimeter (n.d), *Boko Haram: The Development of a Militant Muslim Movement in Nigeria*,...p. 2.

30 Y. B Usman (1987), *The Manipulation of Religion in Nigeria, 1977-1987*, Gaskiya Corporation Limited, Zaria, p. 23.

1978 in the city of Jos by Ismaila Idris, a formal army Imam.<sup>31</sup> Despite its successful development, the Yan Izala already started to experience regional division in the early 1980s, since many outspoken representatives of the movement, while accepting the overall spiritual leadership of Abubakar Gumi, rejected the rather authoritarian style of Ismaila Idris. This arise from several manipulations of religious precept and its tenets to suit their whims and caprices as well as rejection from some quarters. However, the dichotomy created among the Izala into groups later forged the existence of Hisba (Islamic police), which its dictates and precepts are antithetical to western education and political ideologies. This were described as alien to real practice of Islam. In other words, other sect of the Izala movement established and developed a supportive power to the military administration and government of retired General Ibrahim Babangida.<sup>32</sup>

It should be noted that the differences in orientation and the dynamics of positioning continue to foster competition among Nigerian Muslims movements and produce bitter conflict among Muslims. This was premised over questions of leadership and of which interpretation of Islam can and should be accepted as a model for Muslims in Nigeria as exemplified by Muhammadu Yusuf- the leader of Boko Haram. It was from these inadequacies that frustration and aggression to respond to the inadequacies that the Boko Haram emerged in 2000s as a corrective measure. What influenced Muhammadu Yusuf to create a strong apathy for western education could be attributed to his removal by his father after spending three years in western type of education.<sup>33</sup> Accordingly, he was reported to have been a close associate of Ibrahim Al-Zakzaky, a relationship which spurred Muhammad Yusuf to create hatred for western education. This development clearly gave him the chance to move about to recruit new members within the *al-majirai* (lumpen child), local *Yan Kasuwa* (marketers) and among students of the University of Maiduguri and other tertiary institutions in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.<sup>34</sup>

It is also germane to understand that the adoption of capitalists' politico-economic system factored out the disparity between the rich and poor in Nigeria which often posited the Boko Haram insurgency. The democratic governance since its inception was not in any way favourable to the existence and survival of the poor masses as well as the lumpen child (*al-*

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31 B. A Ramzi (2011), *The Izala Movement in Nigeria: Its Split, Relationship to Sufis and Perception of Sharia Re-Implementation*, Ph.D Thesis, Bayreuth University.

32 *Ibid*...

33 S. Bala (2015), "The Boko Haram Phenomenon and Militancy in Northern Nigeria," in MT Usman and M. A Rufai, *Social and Economic History of Northern Nigeria, Since 1500*, Aboki Publishers, Markudi-Abuja-Ibadan, p. 393.

34 *Ibid*...p.394.

*majirai*),<sup>35</sup> this insidious situation created the avenue for Boko Haram to resonate as corrective Islamic reactionary movement. As observed by Decker, with its formal emergence at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the Boko Haram insurgency fractured Nigeria's fragile identity and political economy.<sup>36</sup> This exposed and created a tense and palpable situation that often times lead to series of conflict from its rejection and replacement by Islamic governance which the Boko Haram aspired. From observation it was reported that the Boko Haram had a very good intention to create a viable politico-economic condition and polity. But with the spate of political awareness, it was swiftly truncated by political gladiators who used them to achieve their political wills. This disparity result into increasing level of poverty with many people subjected dangerous situation. Majority of the poor people in Nigeria become frustrated due to the extravagant lifestyle of rich while on the other hand many poor could not get two square meal per day.

Often significant to the cause of Boko Haram conflagration in Nigeria is trend of globalization and its unequal gains as exemplified by Abdulrahman and Kura.<sup>37</sup> In the word of Nabudere perceives globalization as a phenomenon that tending towards causing of conflicts, war and social disintegration in almost all the countries of the world.<sup>38</sup> Through robust interactions with globalization, its implication has led to the construction of new identities, reputation and reinvention of old ones culminating into Boko Haram conflict among plural Nigeria nationalities. Decker expressed that the Boko haram insurgency on the nation's and citizen's security indicted the governance of the Nigerian state and the continuing possibility of the globalization of long neglected local imbalances.<sup>39</sup> By its implication, myriad of aggressive attacks, feuds and unending proliferation of arms and ammunitions for execution of Boko Haram's aspirations were nurtured. This is because globalization entails the multiplicity of agents or actors that are instrumental or are direct players in the process such as the Trans-National Co-operations and Trans-National Finances (TNCs and TNFs), World Bank, International Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization

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35 S. Khalid (2006), Hope Betrayed? Almajirai and the Menace of Child Abuse in Northern Nigeria, Daily Trust Newspaper, Nigeria. See also more details in J. Amzat (2008), "Lumpen Childhood in Nigeria: A Case of the Almajirai in Northern Nigeria," Hemispheres, ISSN 0239-8818.

36 T. Decker (2016), *Matrix of Inherited: A Historical Exploration of the Underdog Phenomenon in Nigeria's Relationship Strategies, 1960-2011*, University Press Plc, Ibadan, p. 49.

37 D. Abdulrahman and B. Kura *et.al.* (2012). *Work and Productivity in the Era of Globalization: The Nigerian Experience*. Published by Faculty of Social Science, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, p. 1.

38 D.W Nabudere (2000), "The African Renaissance in the age of Globalization", being a paper presented at the South Africa Regional Institute for Policy Studies, (SARIPS), Annual Colloquium, p. 3.

39 *Op.cit.*...T. Decker (2016), *Matrix of Inherited*....p. 49.

(WTO) and the media.<sup>40</sup> This development in addition have spurred the ignition of global terror epidemic emanating from contiguity that deteriorated the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. In understanding of the sordid situation injected by the Boko Haram reactionary movement of the sect, for example, terrorism in Yemen, in Afghanistan, in Somalia, in Africa spreads its cancerous effect on destroying lives and property.<sup>41</sup> It is based on this assertion and development that the Boko Haram has been categorised under ‘terrorism’ among countless numbers of globalization vocabularies.

Furthermore, the salient factor that precipitation the Boko Haram pandemonium is the disconnection between government and the governed. The growing gap between the leaders and the led has created a vacuum, and has thus made it possible for violent extremists to take over that vacuum and propagate their murderous ideology. This insidious situation has for many times forged the scourge of unemployment where many of Nigeria young people that ought to live decent and responsible life are roaming about the street. People like these are vulnerable and represent one of the most potent threats to collective existence, unity, peace and democratic governance. This is largely due to the pervasiveness of corruption which have undermined the socio-economic, political and religious fabric of the country. Corruption is so rampant that the wealthy and connected are perceived as able to get away with virtually any kind of injustice. As John Campbell notes: “The Boko Haram ideology draws on a long-standing local tradition of Islamic radical reform that emphasizes the pursuit of justice for the poor through the imposition of Sharia. Adherent generally despise Nigeria’s secular leadership and the country’s traditional Muslim elites.”<sup>42</sup>

The unbridled nature of Nigeria borders and boundaries has subjected it to invitation of all vagaries of human beings with distinct idea and ideologies. This make it easier for arms and ammunitions to move around in the country. In addition, so accessible that Nigeria borders are porous and as such extremists find it easier to pick up guns and ammunition to fight. This nonchalant attitude coupled high level of corruption among Nigeria security agents stimulated the foreigners to aid and abet violence in the North. As affirmed by Jip,<sup>43</sup>

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40 S.B Mohammad (2004), “The Socio-Cultural Impact of Globalization on Nigeria,” in J.S. Odama & E.A Aiyedun (2004), *Globalization and the Third World Economy: Impacts and Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Malthouse Press Ltd, Lagos,

41 O. Nkechi (2014), “Globalization and Conflict: The African Experience,” in *International Journal of Arts and Humanities (IJAH)*, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia Vol. 3 (3), S/No 11, July, 2014:35-46 ISSN: 2225-8590 (Print) ISSN 2227-5452 (Online) DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ijah.v3i3.4>.

42 J. Campbell (2011), “Boko Haram is a Away of thinking Effective Strategy for Dismantling the Group” Being a Lecture delivered at Government House, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.

43 N. Jip (1996), “Economic Implication of Seasonal Migration Along Nigeria-Niger Border Birnin N’Konni Illela Road, 1963-1993,” M.A History Dissertation, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

the Nigerien (in Niger Republic) authority, for instance does not recognised anything called smuggling in so long as duty is paid for goods and such goods do not affect its own country. According to the Kaduna State Police Commissioner, Mohammed Jinjiri Abubakar in 2012, foreign countries sharing the same borders with the Northern states of Nigeria sneak into this country to cause disharmony. He reiterated that the citizens of Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon are among those involved in the terror activities in the northern Nigeria. This is evident on the arrest of many nationals of these countries, who were caught in mass killings and bombings. This development in consequence resulted in the proliferation of weapons in every part of the country leading to increasing armed banditry.

The underdevelopment and economic collapse of the North is also apposite to the precipitation of Boko Haram altercation leaving many able-bodied youths to idleness. It is interesting to understand that the underdevelopment of the north by previous administrations subjected the able-bodied youths to be susceptible to violence due to the perverted nature of the Nigeria economy. For instance, quite a number of Northern Nigeria industries have closed down- a factor which exposed the youths to commit nuisance in the society. This is to the fact that Nigeria economy is as arid as its weather in the northern part as most of the states depend on oil revenues to pay salaries and execute capital project. This because over the years, Nigeria government have neglected agriculture, and have refuse to explore solid minerals. Evidence abound illustrated during a comment made by the President Mohammadu Buhari that a preponderance numbers of Nigeria youths are unemployment. This was reported to might been caused by youths inability to improvised a pristine method of survival as a result of overbearing concentration on oil economy that yield quick money. In addition, there is the irresponsibility in governance at that time as well as parochial interest of individual stakeholders take the toll and trajectory of exploiting the youths. The youths are converted to a mere chattel for execution for political aspirations of the stakeholders as thurggery and as well dumped after utilization. This however compounded the situation which thereby subjecting the youths to political thurggery, area boyish and armed bandits. In a nutshell, the agonizing behaviour prompted the youths to work as mercenary in the perpetration of conflict in the north at any available slightest opportunity.

The last factor for the cause of Boko Haram pugnacity is the systemic collapse of public education in northern Nigeria at the detriment of indigent people who cannot afford to enlist their ward into private institutions. This challenges were also constituted by the attitudinal behaviour the parent, government and the recipient of western education who have

been beclouded with any Western is *Kuffir*- that unbeliever. It is discernible that governments in the past have not used the opportunity of its governmental power to educate and develop the region as to enable them to be alleviated from poverty malaise. This is because education exterminate the blight of illiteracy and as well create a new identity and reputation in construing with the fundamental human rights. Perhaps, since the normal schools that should have provided meaningful education to children have collapsed, the improvise solution is to become nuisance in bad places. This at the end tend to culminate to the consumption of drugs and other narcotic to stimulate their vigour. However, the lackadaisical attitude of the parent toward educational acquisition in northern Nigeria however created the tendency of regression because of the primordial conception and feeling of Christianising the wards. This assertion were fathomed to be part of the belief system of the people- that those who attends western education are vulnerable to be evangelized into Christianity which they discourage.

### **Boko Haram Phenomenon: Issues and Challenges**

The Boko Haram insurgency have injected myriads of challenges particularly to the peaceful and harmonious co-existence of Nigeria populace. It is the longest insurgency Nigeria has had to battle with since 2002 arisen from the period of the Kanama disturbance. The Kanama group were the earliest group linked to Boko Haram and they emerged around the year 2000. It caused the highest wave of displacement (refugees and IDPs) in the country (much more than the 1967-1970 civil war). It triggered the highest raise in Nigeria's defence spending. For 2015, it went up to about 6 billion dollars, which shows how serious an issue Boko Haram is for the country. Boko Haram has put Nigeria on the list of countries that have to cope with terrorism.<sup>44</sup>

Another challenges incurred as a result of the activities of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria is the building of formidable military might with sophisticated weapons. In the Sambisa forest of the outlying boundary of Nigeria, they establish themselves and defied laws binding the existence of any settlement. During the nascent democratic system, on May 29, 2011, newly Nigerian president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan took the oath of office to radically exterminate the existence of any conflict that would be heinous to the growth and sustainable development of Nigeria. However, the Boko Haram, a shadowy Islamic terrorist group opposed to Nigeria's secular government, detonated three bombs at an army barracks in Bauchi State, killing at least 14 people. Two weeks later, the first suicide bombing in

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44 A. Medinat (2016), "The Boko Haram Insurgency and Internal Displacement," Being a paper presented at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna at the SEM, 20 June, p. 12.

Nigeria's history killed five people just outside the Nigeria Police Headquarters in the national capital, Abuja.<sup>45</sup> These attacks highlight the challenges that Jonathan's government is facing if it is to improve governance, reduce conflict, and promote economic development, all despite Nigeria's extreme inequality, a youth bulge, crumbling infrastructure, and high unemployment.

From the observation, the Boko Haram challenges have increased the propensity of poverty in the north-eastern areas of Nigeria as abled-bodied men and youth are sporadically kills. This consequent on decimal increase on vibrant youths and children in crime perpetration as well as armed banditry without commensurate care or proactive response from the government, philanthropists and proprietors of *Makaranta allo* (traditional Islamic institution). This is evident because of the breakdown in the economic activity of the affected area as people tend to be discouraged from bringing their commodities and services largely because of the intensity of killings and destruction meted out by Boko Haram. To construe the challenges, Ogundiya aver that factors such as social, economic and political are inseparable actions, and inactions of any of these three important realms affect one another fundamentally. He stressed further that economic or social situations and unrest in a particular country may be a true reflection of the political condition.<sup>46</sup> This informed why the Boko Haram are anti-western ideology and practices which deviate from a true Islamic polity. Therefore, the Boko Haram syndrome subject many northern Nigeria youth to murder, robbery, petty theft, burglary, store breaking, gambling, narcotics, rape, assault arson, poverty and others. As noticed by Nkechi poverty contributes to violence conflict in a variety of ways<sup>47</sup> and hardly average Nigerian live up to the expectation of a dollar daily.

Often significant as a challenge to Nigeria sustainable national development is that the activities of the Boko Haram has over the years taken different trends and dimensions. The sect has graduated from cruel drive-by attacks on beer parlours to bombing of security buildings, public institutions and Christian sites.<sup>48</sup> In northern Nigeria, the Boko Haram violence strained and challenged the relationship between the Muslim dominated

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45 *Ibid...*

46 I.S Ogundiya (2003), "Electoral Violence and the Democratization Project: The Nigerian Experience." In Olasupo B.A (Ed). *Electoral Violence in Nigeria: Issues and Perspectives*, Lagos Frankad Publishers.

47 O. Nkechi (2014), "Globalization and Conflict: The African Experience," in *International Journal of Arts and Humanities (IJAH)*, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia Vol. 3 (3), S/No 11, July, 2014:35-46 ISSN: 2225-8590 (Print) ISSN 2227-5452 (Online) DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ijah.v3i3.4>.

48 S. Bala (2015), "The Boko Haram Phenomenon and Militancy in Northern Nigeria," in MT Usman and M. A Rufai, *Social and Economic History of Northern Nigeria, Since 1500*, Aboki Publishers, Markudi-Abuja-Ibadan, p. 397.

Hausa/Fulani of northern Nigeria and the Christian dominated southern Nigeria. Their formidable nature illustrated and unravelled the sophistication of Boko Haram group in terms of heavy weapons they used that are capable of demolishing buildings and killings hundreds of people at a time. Their operation has for several years brought about phenomenal changes in the demography structure of the country with killing of more youths and subjection female to widowers in the north east. In the north east, the youths became vulnerable and fallen prey to Boko Haram violence which consequence on population reduction and dehumanization arisen from massive killing, maiming, injuries, displacement, abduction, etc. In this perspective, the Boko Haram violence or altercation have continue for years to threaten the security, peace, unity and stability of Nigeria national development. This is because the some northern politicians exploit the credulity of the youths in the perpetration of violence towards selfish ends nurture towards their predispose aspirations.

It is essential to argue that in many parts of Africa, colonialism bequeathed a legacy of partitions by dichotomizing the common people into two or more separate entities between 1884 and 1885.<sup>49</sup> According to Inuwa<sup>50</sup> emphasised that the existence of boundaries in pre-colonial traditional African societies are determined by power and influence of a kingdom. In consequence, the partition however responsible for the porosity of Nigeria borders and boundaries that later exposed north east to inestimable deplorable situations. Often compounded the porosity of the boundary pointed out by Miles<sup>51</sup> is that “Hausa people were less critical to political boundaries than the socio-cultural and economic affinities that bond them together.” This had severely consequence on spontaneous penetrations of illegal immigrants of different people of distinct social and political ideologies and characters as well as weapons. This is because the system of partition contradicted the indigenous socio-political paradigm used by African natives for protection of their communities’ prior colonial incursion. This in essence consequently exposed them to the danger and challenges of unbridled movement of people across borders. It is reiterated by Liman that despite the tussle between the Hausa states over territorial expansion; there was little or no restriction to socio-

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<sup>49</sup> M. Crowder (1978), *The Story of Nigeria*, Faber and Faber, London. See also A. Liman (2012), “Informal Cross-Border Activities and Economic Development of Border Regions: A Study of Illela-Birnin-N’Konni Borderlands of Nigeria and Niger Republic,” in *Sokoto Journal of the Social Sciences*, ISSN: 1595-2738, Vol. 2: No. 1, p. 106.

<sup>50</sup> M.M Inuwa (1989), “Nigeria-Niger Boundary 1890-1906; Evolution and Implications on Transborder Socio-Economic Activities,” in Asiwaju A.I, & B. M Barkindo (Eds), *Nigeria-Niger Transborder Cooperation*, Lagos, Malthouse Press.

<sup>51</sup> F.S.W Miles (1994), “Hausaland Divided: Colonialism and Independence in Nigeria in Nigeria and Niger,” Ithaca, New York, Cornell University Press.

economic activities between and among the communities of the entire region.<sup>52</sup> This informed the unbridled nature arisen from the porosity of the boundaries which vulnerability hinged on north eastern boundaries that often permits informal and irregular pattern of relations. However, the consequences were the challenges inherent on the ineptitude of Nigeria security agencies i.e immigration, custom and others.

There is also the challenges of deterioration of western education in the north, specifically in the crisis prone area of north eastern Nigeria. The consequential effect of this, is the subjection of the poor populace to humiliation and tragedy of bad memory wars. The challenges of Boko Haram wars on the government is redirection of governmental policy from the creation of meaningful development to management of conflict and peace building in the region. This posed a threat to survival and peaceful co-existence of Nigeria plural society. This is because, the earlier outright neglect of western education to Islamic type due to overbearing belief and perception that western education is meant to Christianise their children deepening their situation.<sup>53</sup> Although, the missionaries on their parts made no secret about their grand design to evangelise the Muslim dominated north via education. In addition, to the Boko Haram, the early and contemporary attempt by democratic governance were considered incongruous to the dictate of the Qu'ran and Hadith as a result of overwhelming ignorance. However, this illicit situation created by Boko Haram became aggravated, and thus posits a lot of challenges that indirectly truncated governmental effort at educating the people as a process of sustaining national development. Although, the Qu'ran and Hadith advocate the search for knowledge even if it require traveling to the farthest east in China. As opine by Dauda, Muftau and Tajudeen<sup>54</sup> Islamic education inculcates moral value and virtues while western education complement it by giving sense of socialization, shape one's ability to having a successful life and contributes to societal development.

Another fundamental aspect of the challenges is the stigmatization it created as well as discouragement of foreign and domestic investors to Nigeria economy. The incident of Boko Haram as given Nigeria a pristine nomenclature as terrorist, this brand discouraged many countries from partnering with Nigeria because of the threat of Boko Haram and its

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52 *Op.cit...*A. Liman (2012), "Informal Cross-Border Activities and Economic Development of Border Regions: A Study of Illela-Birnin-N'Konni Borderlands of Nigeria and Niger Republic,"...

53 M. Umar, Y.H Jae and H. I Abubakar (2018), "Historical Assessment of the Contact Between Qu'ranic and Western Education Systems in Northern Nigeria: The Colonial Experience," in *Kaduna Journal of Humanities*, Volume. 2, No. 1, ISSN: 2636-6436, p.96.

54 Y. Dauda, S. Muftau and M. Tajudeen (2018), "A Critique of Attitude of Boko Haram Towards Western Education: An Islamic Perspective," in *Kaduna Journal of Humanities*, Volume. 2, No. 1, ISSN: 2636-6436, p. 219.

destructive act. A typical example was that Boko Haram made its presence known in 2004, in Yobe State, and by 2011, it made its presence known to the global community by bombing the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja, especially in the last two years, it has wilfully attacked hundreds of buildings and killing many innocent Nigerians.<sup>55</sup> However, the killings arising from different strategies because of their faceless nature and properties worth billions of naira remain uncountable. By and large, the challenges pose by Boko Haram in all facet of human endeavours can never be overemphasised with its continuous crime perpetration from abduction and killings of innocent people.

Lastly, it is very subtle and complex to ascertain the damages and challenges the Boko Haram has created on Nigeria foreign policy despite all plethora of strategies to curtail the menace. Normatively, the crisis could lead to withdrawal of the security pact which was entered into by Nigeria and the United States. This pact was signed by the Director General of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAN), Marold Demaron as Nigeria representative, while John W. Haluski who was the assistant administrator of global signed on behalf of the United States. The anti-terrorism law which was signed by the Nigeria federal government as regards the support of international law on terrorism, declared Nigeria a terrorist nation recently.<sup>56</sup> This is a result of the activities of Boko Haram insurgence together with past terrorist activities which the country has posed to the global world such as the attempt by Nigerian born Abdul-Mutalib L. Farouk to bomb United States bound aircraft from England.<sup>57</sup> It is apt to demonstrate that the success of quite a number of bomb blast and series of attacks executed by the Boko Haram has left a big question mark on the mind of not only Nigeria citizens, but also citizens of other states which have diplomatic relationship with Nigeria. These series of doubts as regards to Nigeria security competence has made it almost impossible for the United Nations (UN) to grant Nigeria's appeal concerning a permanent seat in the security council in United Nation (UN). In conclusion, these among others are some of the underlying challenges of Boko Haram phenomenon. However, necessarily measures need to be strategised through serious proactive actions in order to coordinate a viable sustainable national development.

### **Concluding Remark**

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55 D. Herold (2011), As President, Security Chief and Stakeholders Meet over Abuja Bombing", Vanguard. June 28.

56 E. O Ogochukwu (2013), "The Socio-Economic Implications of the Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria: 2009-2013," M.Sc Thesis, Department of Political Science, Caritas University, Amorji-Nike, Enugu, pp. 103-104.

57 *Ibid...*

The paper have examined Boko Haram phenomenon, issues and its challenges to sustainable national development in Nigeria. The study adopted myriads of theoretical discourses as related to Boko Haram insurgency and its ignition. But the frustration-aggression theory proved more applicable to the interpretation of the terrorists act perpetrated by Boko Haram especially in the north eastern part of the country. Some of the postulations like the human needs, psycho-cultural and economic theories explicates aggression and discontentment. These theories informed the differences between what people feels they desire, or deserve to what they actually get and difference between the expected needs and satisfaction. The theories further construed the tendency of people to confront those holding position of responsibility (government) in frustrating their ambition.

It further revealed the Boko Haram terrorists dimension into the crime space of Nigeria through its trademarks of wanton destruction of lives and property worth billions of naira. However, it also illustrated the reckless abandonment through bombings, abduction and slaughtering of human beings like rams more prominent in north-eastern area of Nigeria. It further justified the predisposing and precipitating forces of Boko Haram insurgency such as low level of education, pervasiveness of corruption, the porosity of the borders among others. The paper realised that all these causes were accompanied by pockets of ideologies and attitudinal behaviours contrary normative human existence and co-habitation.

In consequence, all these posited lot of challenges to peaceful and harmonious co-existence in plural society through which palpable fear and sense of insecurity in the polity of Nigeria were created. This indecent situation has serious corrosive challenges on the life of heterogeneous Nigerian societies leading to psychological trauma, destructions of public, private properties and displacement of people. It addition led to pervasiveness of corruption, poverty ridden, discouragement of both foreign and domestic investors, and redirection of the nation's resources toward conflict management and resolution. It is an incontrovertible fact that security of lives and property plays the fundamental fulcrum in the development of any country, as investors in any economy may want to be assured of the safety of their investments and funds.

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Note that the term *Habe* is a Fulfulde language used in this context to describe in eighteenth and nineteenth century jihadist terminology referred to the pre-jihadist and allegedly pre-Islamic heathen rulers of Hausaland.

The Number of Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) in Nigeria is growing quickly, [www.venturesafrica.com/the-number-of-internally-displaced-persons-idps-in-nigeria-is-growing-quickly/](http://www.venturesafrica.com/the-number-of-internally-displaced-persons-idps-in-nigeria-is-growing-quickly/) last assessed 1st March 2016.